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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Dec. 7, through midnight Thursday, Dec. 13.

Since the adjusted world price (AWP) is above the 1989, and 1990 crop base quality loan rates of 50.00 and 50.27 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rates for the 1989 and 1990 crops of upland cotton during this period are equal to the respective loan rates for the specific quality and location.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates. Because the AWP in effect is above the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments are not available for 1990-crop upland cotton sold during this period.

Based on data for the week ending Dec. 6, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

Northern Europe Price	82.71
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location	13.35
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	2.15
Average U.S. location	0.35
Sum of Adjustments	<u>-15.85</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	66.86 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

Northern Europe Price	82.71
Northern Europe Coarse Count Price	<u>-77.73</u>
	4.98
Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton	<u>-4.10</u>
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	0.88 cents/lb.

The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on Thursday, Dec 13.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-4026

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FOOD PROGRAM FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN EXPANDS 1991 CASELOAD

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced a 13 percent increase in caseload allocations for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) for fiscal year 1991.

The CSFP is a food distribution program that provides supplemental food packages to low-income women, infants, and children up to age 6, and to elderly persons. CSFP operates in 18 states and the District of Columbia. The total national caseload is 330,490 compared to last year's total of 291,973 participants.

"I am pleased that we can accommodate a significant increase in the number of CSFP participants," said Betty Jo Nelsen, administrator of USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, which oversees the program. "This means FNS can provide nourishing food packages for thousands of needy people not previously served."

Nelsen said USDA was able to expand the 1991 CSFP caseload levels by donating the entire amount of nonfat milk needed for the program.

CSFP food packages are tailored to different categories of participants and include, infant formula and cereal, nonfat dry and evaporated milk, juice, cereal, farina, rice, pasta, egg mix, dehydrated potatoes, peanut butter, dry beans and peas, canned meat and poultry, and canned fruits and vegetables.

The authorized caseload levels for fiscal year 1991 are listed below. Twelve state totals include elderly participants as well as women, infants, and children.

Arizona, 15,209; California, 12,345; Colorado, 21,826; District of Columbia, 13,849; Illinois, 16,189; Iowa, 6,194; Kansas, 5,361; Kentucky, 7,155; Louisiana, 59,880; Michigan, 89,456; Minnesota, 5,948; Red Lake Indian Tribal Organization (Minn.), 564; Nebraska,

16,255; New Hampshire, 2,650; New Mexico, 10,000; New York, 12,120; North Carolina, 2,091; Oregon, 975; South Dakota, 1,104; and Tennessee, 31,319.

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USDA CAUTIONS PRODUCERS OF CHANGE IN “TRIGGER” FOR SWAMPBUSTER VIOLATIONS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7—The recently enacted 1990 farm bill significantly changes conditions under which a producer could lose many U.S. Department of Agriculture benefits because of “swampbuster” violations, Keith Bjerke, administrator of USDA’s Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said today.

“Under the new law, alteration of a wetland may trigger swampbuster penalties for current and subsequent crop years, whereas under the old law planting of an annual crop on a converted wetland was the only trigger for penalties,” Bjerke said. “I strongly suggest that producers become familiar with the changes before undertaking any drainage or other alteration of lands that could be considered wetlands,” he added.

The Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 was signed into law November 28 as P.L. 101-624.

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NATIONAL FOREST RECEIPTS YIELD \$346 MILLION TO STATES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7—Forty-one states and Puerto Rico will receive more than \$346 million as their portion of national forest receipts collected in fiscal 1990, F. Dale Robertson, chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service, announced today.

On Sept. 19, the U.S. Department of Agriculture made interim payments of \$246 million to states based on estimated national forest revenues for the year. A final payment of \$100 million, based on actual receipts collected during the year, will be paid today, Robertson said.

Actual fiscal 1990 receipts collected from the sale and use of national forest resources totaled \$1.38 billion.

By law, 25 percent of the revenues collected by USDA's Forest Service from the use of national forest system lands and resources are returned to the states where the lands are located. The states use the funds for schools and roads. Robertson said the funds are collected primarily from timber sales, grazing, recreation and mining extraction on 191 million acres of national forest system lands.

These payments do not include 25 percent of the 1990 national grassland revenues. Those payments are based on calendar year 1990 receipts and will be made in March 1991.

The three states receiving the largest payments are: Oregon, \$150 million; California, \$64 million; and Washington, \$37 million.

National Forest Payments to States-Fiscal 1990

State	Total Payment	Actual Interim Payment Made Oct. 1	Final Payment
Alabama	1,553,275.16	996,774.95	556,500.21
Alaska	9,057,119.59	6,521,913.20	2,535,206.39
Arizona	5,967,383.20	4,202,989.46	1,764,393.74
Arkansas	7,913,023.11	6,206,205.55	1,706,817.56
California	64,160,869.80	42,652,057.28	21,508,812.52
Colorado	3,664,017.59	2,706,087.39	957,930.20
Florida	1,854,443.27	1,311,750.01	542,693.26
Georgia	907,815.75	723,937.52	183,878.23
Idaho	14,506,374.70	9,684,244.97	4,822,129.73
Illinois	68,193.20	63,856.24	4,336.96
Indiana	21,822.19	16,258.85	5,563.34
Kentucky	458,599.78	330,758.07	127,841.71
Louisiana	3,478,693.12	2,401,127.81	1,077,565.31
Maine	34,584.04	25,228.62	9,355.42
Michigan	1,777,355.73	1,508,952.30	268,403.43
Minnesota	2,119,267.72	1,526,934.38	592,333.34
Mississippi	6,385,011.44	3,407,671.88	2,977,339.56
Missouri	2,584,685.56	2,126,343.77	458,341.79
Montana	11,149,714.60	7,153,084.70	3,996,629.90

Nebraska	39,672.97	29,133.74	10,539.23
Nevada	334,367.63	229,061.51	105,306.12
New Hampshire	506,303.79	369,255.41	137,048.38
New Mexico	1,897,014.69	1,357,000.32	540,014.37
New York	10,301.75	7,699.50	2,602.25
North Carolina	755,156.03	467,266.25	287,889.78
North Dakota	68.64	55.67	12.97
Ohio	134,296.07	112,624.03	21,672.04
Oklahoma	1,142,169.09	892,019.51	250,149.58
Oregon	149,671,844.62	111,339,612.90	38,332,231.72
Pennsylvania	3,618,126.45	2,532,198.08	1,085,928.37
South Carolina	3,411,076.13	2,529,845.26	881,230.87
South Dakota	1,843,314.76	1,212,178.10	631,136.66
Tennessee	483,639.76	306,280.02	177,359.74
Texas	2,351,645.03	1,472,399.06	879,245.97
Utah	1,540,060.58	997,935.26	542,125.32
Vermont	174,115.35	127,562.66	46,552.69
Virginia	459,586.23	295,071.62	164,514.61
Washington	36,850,575.11	25,981,143.09	10,869,432.02
West Virginia	879,699.00	638,701.09	240,997.91
Wisconsin	696,970.60	573,031.29	123,939.31
Wyoming	1,600,818.14	1,040,505.78	560,312.36
Puerto Rico	22,984.01	12,041.45	10,942.56
Grand Total	\$346,086,055.98	\$246,088,798.55	\$99,997,257.43

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IMPORTED, MITE-RESISTANT BEES APPROVED TO CROSS COAST INTO LOUISIANA

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7—Some English honeybees will enter the United States next spring at Golden Meadow, La. And, unlike the Africanized bees that crossed into Texas and were destroyed last October, this time U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists will be rolling out the welcome mat.

Queen bees with resistance to the hive-wrecking tracheal mite were imported last July from an abbey in Buckfastleigh, England, by USDA's

Agricultural Research Service, where they were immediately quarantined on Grand Terre island, 30 miles off the Louisiana coast, to ensure they carried no foreign diseases. ARS scientists will use the bees to develop for beekeepers a strain that won't succumb to the mite attack.

With an official clean bill of health certified today, the queens' offspring have been granted visas to enter the mainland, said Ralph A. Bram, ARS national program leader for bee research in Beltsville, Md.

Even though the quarantine is being lifted today, geneticist Thomas E. Rinderer said he will wait until spring to bring the bees from Grand Terre through Golden Meadow to the ARS Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics, and Physiology Laboratory in Baton Rouge. He is the research leader there.

The parasitic mite clogs bees' breathing tubes, killing 80 percent or more of a hive and sapping thousands of dollars per year from beekeepers' pockets, said Bram, who hand carried the queens from England last July.

"If everything goes as we plan, beekeepers will have an effective way to control the mites without putting chemicals in their hives," Bram said. "It will be a biological control for the mite."

The scientists will crossbreed the queens' offspring with other mite-resistant bees. This will take two to three years, Rinderer said. Once they have incorporated resistance into a commercially productive bee, the scientists will distribute queens to bee breeders, he said.

The imported resistant strain was developed by a 92-year-old monk named Brother Adam, who spent years selecting bees for resistance to this devastating mite. He has written reports that his bees withstand mite attack even "when in identical environments other races and crosses collapsed midseason." Brother Adam has also reported that all of his hive members survive mite attack, compared to the 20 percent or lower survival rate among nonresistant bees.

Brother Adam has been a resident of the abbey since 1910 and began keeping bees when he was sixteen.

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USDA ANNOUNCES EXPECTED 1991 NATIONAL PEANUT POUNDAGE QUOTA

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that it expects the national peanut poundage quota will be 1,550,000 short tons (3,100 million pounds) for the 1991 marketing year, down 10,000 short tons (20 million pounds) from the 1990 level.

Keith Bjerke, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said that USDA is required by law to announce the final national poundage quota for 1991 marketing year peanuts by Dec. 15.

The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, requires the national poundage quota for the 1991 crop of peanuts to be equal to the quantity of peanuts that the secretary of agriculture estimates will be devoted to domestic edible, seed and related use in the 1991 marketing year. The marketing year begins Aug. 1, 1991. The statute also provides that the quota may be no less than 1,350,000 short tons.

All available information will be considered prior to the final determination. Questions concerning the determination may be directed to the Director, Commodity Analysis Division, USDA-ASCS, Room 3741 South Building, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013.

Persons wishing to contact the CAD director by FAX may do so through FAX number (202) 447-8261.

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U.S. KERNELS POP-ULAR WITH OVERSEAS CONSUMERS

WASHINGTON—In Germany, it's one of the most recognized U.S. food products. In Japan, it's fast overtaking cuttlefish (sun-dried squid) as the snack of choice. The U.S. food product that's buttering up consumers in these two countries is popcorn—that mainstay of U.S. moviegoers and couch potatoes, according to an article in the January issue of AgExporter Magazine, published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service.

With a little promotional effort to grease the skids, U.S. producers could lift the lid off popcorn exports to Germany, according to Dale L.

Good, U.S. agricultural trade officer in Hamburg. "Germany is a million-dollar-plus market and growing," he said.

Popping at home is limited, Good said, but has expanded over the past several years as popcorn poppers and microwave ovens are appearing in German households. U.S. popcorn exports to Germany have expanded steadily from 568 metric tons in 1984 to 3,378 tons in 1988 and are expected to at least match that level in 1990.

While the popcorn market in Germany has been swelling like a kernel in hot oil, annual per-capita consumption in the country is still extremely low by U.S. standards—2 quarts of popped corn compared to the 56 quarts that U.S. consumers eat, Good said. Entrepreneurs continue to seek products that will tempt German taste buds. Germans prefer their popcorn with sugar, but flavored popcorn has not been successful. Taking a slightly different tack, a German company recently contacted Good to explore using popcorn as packaging material.

While German consumers are still relatively unfamiliar with the fluffy stuff, Japanese consumers are attracted by its nutritional values. "Many Japanese consumers view popcorn as a 'natural' snack food," according to LaVerne Brabant, U.S. agricultural trade officer in Tokyo.

The Japanese popcorn market has grown steadily over the past 10 years, from \$38 million in 1978 to \$109 million in 1988. Industry representatives estimate that 1990 revenues will exceed \$112 million. While the popcorn market is not large compared with other snack foods, Brabant estimates that it will continue to grow by about 5 to 10 percent annually.

Before 1989, unprocessed popcorn products were the top seller in Japan. Now, ready-to-eat products have taken over the top sales position, primarily as the result of rapidly rising consumption among convenience-minded teenagers and young adults.

Successful companies have tailored their products to meet Japanese tastes and preferences. For instance, nori (seaweed) and other Japanese-style flavored popcorns are becoming more popular.

In Japan, like Germany, at-home popping is limited. But that is changing; imported microwaveable popcorn for home use is appearing in an increasing number of Japanese supermarkets, Brabant said.

Since Japan grows virtually no popcorn, all must be imported. More than 97 percent of Japan's imported popcorn comes from the United States.

Like Japan, Sweden produces no popcorn and imports nearly all of its

supply from the United States, according to Gordon S. Nicks, U.S. agricultural attache in Stockholm. In 1989, Sweden imported nearly 4,000 tons from the United States. Most of the product is sold unpopped, with smaller amounts sold popped or unpopped and packaged for use in microwave ovens.

Swedish consumers, like their Japanese and German counterparts, are crunching more popcorn at cinemas, circuses and amusement parks, Nicks said. Still another growth area for U.S. kernels in Sweden is microwaveable popcorn.

Swedish popcorn consumption grew about 3 to 4 percent in 1990, while the total snack market grew about 7 percent, according to Nicks. Potato chips remain the snack of choice in Sweden.

Good, Brabant and Nicks all think popcorn will continue to heat up the snack food markets in Germany, Japan and Sweden. The total snack food market in these countries is growing and popcorn is sharing in that growth. So, in addition to pretzels and beer, dried cuttlefish or Swedish potato chips, consumers in those countries also will be munching that old American treat—popcorn.

The AgExporter article also highlights the successful marketing strategies of Prairie Maize Company of Morral, Ohio, a popcorn company founded in 1945. The firm exports 40 percent of its product to markets such as Spain, Italy, Germany, Great Britain, Sweden, Brazil and Japan.

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Issued: Dec. 11, 1990

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THESE VOLUNTEERS LOVE THEIR MEALS—21 OF THEM A DAY

WASHINGTON—Think it's tough to find time for three meals a day? Try eating 21.

That's how many meals 20 volunteers in Boston are downing in 24 hours as part of a long-term cholesterol study by U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers.

“Cholesterol has generally been studied after an overnight fast. But most of the time, we're in the fed state,” said study leader Ernst Schaefer, a physician at USDA's Human Nutrition Research Center on

Aging at Tufts. He expects the study to produce new information on how people metabolize cholesterol when eating rather than fasting.

The 21-meal marathon occurs only twice over the course of eight months and provides each volunteer with the same number of calories he or she normally eats in a day. Each serving consists only of:

A quarter cup of casserole topped with corn flakes.

A pinch of lettuce and tomato salad sprinkled with a dash of olive oil and Italian dressing.

And three to four ounces of “all the liquids a person consumes throughout the day—milk, fruits, fruit juices and ginger ale—all blended together,” said dietitian Helen M. Rasmussen.

The first 21-meal day comes after a volunteer has eaten a typical American diet relatively high in fat, saturated fat and cholesterol for six weeks. The second comes after six months of eating the cholesterol-lowering diet prescribed by the National Institutes of Health’s national cholesterol education program.

So far, 13 of 20 volunteers—men and women over the age of 40—have finished the two diets. Researchers were surprised to find in the first 10 volunteers that changes in blood lipids induced by the cholesterol lowering diet stabilized after only four weeks. They hope to repeat the same study on 20 older men and women later on.

Schaefer said the study, partly funded by the National Institutes for Health is designed to compare the long-term effects of these two diets on blood lipids when the volunteers are in a constantly fed state as well as fasting. He serves on the NIH panel that developed the cholesterol education program.

His group takes blood samples throughout the two dietary periods to detect changes in levels of HDL, LDL and other cholesterol carrying particles that figure in one’s risk of coronary artery disease.

And they developed a method to gauge how fast the body synthesizes the specific proteins that travel with specific particles and enables them to move into cells. The circulating levels of HDL, LDL and other particles depends, in part, on how fast a person synthesizes each component protein, explained Schaefer.

So while the volunteers are downing 21 mini meals, they’re also getting an intravenous infusion of an amino acid containing a harmless isotope of hydrogen to label these proteins as they are synthesized.

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